

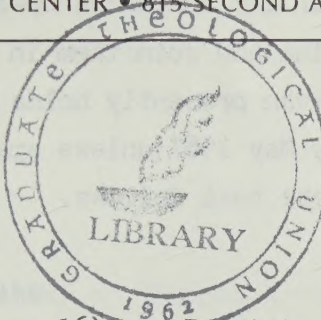
DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER • 815 SECOND AVENUE • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

am D. Dearnaley, News Director
t E. Vetter, Deputy News Director

Telephone: (212) 867-8400

U.S. CHURCH LEADERSURGE TOTAL SANCTIONS

DPS 86135

NEW YORK (DPS, June 16) -- Presiding Bishop Edmond L. Browning joined 20 other U.S. church leaders, in decrying South Africa's imposition of a state of emergency just days before the 10th anniversary of the Soweto Uprising and calling on President Reagan to enact mandatory comprehensive sanctions against South Africa.

"This is essential to halt the increasing flow of blood and growing anger and despair in South Africa," they said in a telegram to the President. "It is required if the U.S. is to regain credibility, among South Africans and other Southern Africans and before the world, as a people and as a government who hold sacred the principles of freedom and justice upon which our nation was founded."

They also include the president and general secretary of the National Council of Churches and heads of Protestant, and Orthodox U.S. church bodies.

The church leaders also sent urgent telegrams to the chief executive officers of five banks -- Chase Manhattan, Irving, Manufacturers Hanover Trust, J.P. Morgan and Bank of America -- urging them to adopt immediately policies prohibiting all future loans to South Africa and to demand rapid repayment of outstanding loans.

Finally, they communicated with 12 corporations investing in South Africa, calling for these companies to announce immediately that they were putting into effect plans to withdraw from South Africa in 1986. These companies had been singled out for pressure a year ago as "partners in apartheid" by 54 church bodies.

The 12 companies are Mobil, Texaco, Chevron, Shell, IBM, Burroughs, Control Data, Citibank, Newmont Mining, Fluor, General Motors and Ford. "These companies play a key role in maintaining apartheid," said the Rev. Arie R. Brouwer, general secretary of the National Council of Churches, in calling for their withdrawal.

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And they appealed to the Rev. Leon Sullivan, the author of principles by which 195 companies operate in south Africa, urging him to advance his timeline and join them in calling for immediate corporate withdrawal. Sullivan presently holds the position that U.S corporations should withdraw by May 1987 unless apartheid is dismantled.

A complete text follows.

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TEXT: TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT REAGAN ON SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Mr. President:

The past 18 months have been a time of a serious and growing escalation of violence in South Africa by the South African Government.

The unrestricted powers granted by the Ministry of Law and Order, the ban on the right to lawful assembly for the month of June, and State President P. W. Botha's reimposition of the state of emergency are ingredients for greater repression by the South African government and therefore greater resistance on the part of the South African majority. In the end, this can only mean an escalation in violence and bloodshed.

Today, the South African government seized and then occupied the offices of the South African Council of Churches, cordoned off those facilities, and then cut off all outside communications. The government has also detained ecumenical officers, both within and outside the facilities. These actions are a clear violation of the principle of religious freedom as well as other basic human rights. These detentions are in part the result of South African Christians' requesting the South African government to permit the people of South Africa to commemorate the events of June 16th and that the South African government "refrain from confrontation and not provoke people with their weapons and military machines." We urge you to call on the South African government to grant their request.

We believe that the most recent events require you to lead the government of the United States in enacting mandatory comprehensive sanctions against the government of South Africa. This is essential to halt the increasing flow of blood and growing anger and despair in South Africa. It is required if the U.S. is to regain credibility among South Africans and other Southern Africans and before the world, as a people and a government who hold sacred the principles of freedom and justice upon which our nation was founded.

We hope and pray that you will act immediately and forcefully to support the call for freedom in South Africa that is now being heard around the world.

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